

Message Text

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21

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INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 CPR-01 PCH-02 INT-05 CIAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

AMEMBASSY SUVA BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 238989

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PP, PFOR

SUBJECT: VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF MATANE AND TOBUNBUN

REF: A. PORT MORESBY 243

B. PORT MORESBY 244

C. STATE 224242

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCPACREP PASS STATUS LNO SAIPAN

1. MATANE, TOBUNBUN, WITH AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY SECOND
SECRETARY PETER PAYPOOL CALLED ON CHIEF OF PROTOCOL
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CATTO, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB, DEPUTY ASSISTANT

SECRETARY GLEYSTEN, AND DIRECTOR MOSER ON OCTOBER 24. GLEYSTEN ALSO HOSTED LUNCH. AUSTRALIAN DCM UPTON ATTENDED LUNCH AND CALLS ON CATTO AND HABIB.

2. MEETINGS WERE FRIENDLY, POSITIVE IN TONE AND RESULTED IN FOLLOWING AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE:

A. MATANE'S FUNCTIONAL TITLE TO BE PAPUA NEW GUINEA REPRESENTATIVE (RATHER THAN COMMISSIONER).

B. MATANE ALSO WILL HAVE DIPLOMATIC TITLE OF MINISTER FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA AFFAIRS IN AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY. OTHER

PNG OFFICERS WOULD BE ON THE AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATIC LIST, AS PAYPOOL IS NOW.

C. MATANE'S OFFICE WILL BE CALLED THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA OFFICE IN WASHINGTON. USG WILL NOT RPT NOT CONSIDER IT A DIPLOMATIC MISSION UNTIL INDEPENDENCE.

3. MATANE SAID THAT, UNTIL INDEPENDENCE, HE AND HIS OFFICERS (AND THEIR COMMUNICATIONS) WOULD BE UNDER THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR. HE SAID THAT PNG WOULD BE FULLY REPRESENTED IN WASHINGTON WITH A SMALL OFFICE IN NEW YORK. PNG WILL JOIN THE UN AND WILL ACCREDIT ITS AMBASSADOR TO THE US TO THE UN. MATANE SAID HE HOPED TO COME TO WASHINGTON TO RESIDE EARLY NEXT YEAR, PERHAPS FEBRUARY OR MARCH. THE PNG STAFF IN WASHINGTON WILL NUMBER ABOUT FIVE, AND WILL MOVE OUT OF THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WHEN SEPARATE OFFICE SPACE IS AVAILABLE. MATANE TOLD HABIB THAT HE HAD BEEN PLEASED WITH DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSES TO HIS QUESTIONS.

4. ONLY SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION WAS RAISED BY TOBUNBUN, WHO ASKED IF USG WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION. HABIB AND MOSER ASSURED HIM USG WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SPC. TOBUNBUN COMMENTED THAT SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM ACTUALLY COULD BE "DIVISIVE," BECAUSE ITS MEMBERSHIP NOT COMPREHENSIVE. TOBUNBUN AFFIRMED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT PNG FOREIGN POLICY WOULD CENTER
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FIRST ON PACIFIC REGION.

5. PNG NOW HAS TWO OFFICERS IN WASHINGTON: PAYPOOL AND KWATI TAUREKA, WHO IS LOOKING AT PROPERTY AND MAKING OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

6. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS INFORMED MATANE THAT DEPARTMENT HAD DECIDED THAT USG SHOULD HAVE RESIDENT AMBASSADOR IN

PORT MORESBY AFTER INDEPENDENCE, BUT NOTED THAT WHITE
HOUSE ACTION OF COURSE REQUIRED. INGERSOLL

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED SUVA.

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